THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) At present there are a total 189 approved/recognised medical colleges in India. The number of seats of NRI/foreign student in private institutions is 15% of the total number of seats as per order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(b) and (c) Since NRIs quota has been fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, it is the primary responsibility of the concerned University and the State Government to ensure the compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Medical Council of India also look into this aspect whenever they undertake inspections of the colleges for renewal of annual permission, in case of newly established colleges and periodical inspections at an interval of five years in case of recognized colleges for continuance of the recognition of medical college.

Wastage of blood in hospitals

†2955. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned, "Aspataalon main har saal barbaad ho jata hai ek lakh unit rakt", which appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara, New Delhi, dated the 26th March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to stop such wastage of blood in the hospitals; and

(c) the new steps to be taken by Government to purchase necessary equipment for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The figures quoted in the report on magnitude of wastage of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Blood is not based on facts. However, the Government as a policy has been promoting rational use of blood by setting up Blood Component Separation Units (BCSUs) all over the Country. In Phase-I (1992-99) of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) the Government has assisted in the modernization/setting up of 40 BCSUs in the country and in Phase-II another 41 centres have been identified. Guidelines on rational use of blood have been circulated.

(c) Equipment are being procured for the 41 BCSUs under NACP Phase-II.

Involvement of officials in granting approval for New Medical Colleges

2956. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has recently alleged that several high level officials in his Ministry and top medical practitioners are indulging in granting approval for opening medical and dental colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry had grossly flouted the recommendations of MCI while granting permission to open such medical and dental colleges in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No reference has been received from CBI making such allegations.

(c) and (d) New medical and dental colleges are permitted with the approval of the compentent authority after taking into account all the relevant factors including the reports of the concerned professional Councils.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) and (d) above.